



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

DA 03-1030
March 31, 2003

**AT&T CIRCUITS TO THE PHILIPPINES REACTIVED BY DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
PHILIPPINES, INC. AND BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY:
SUSPENSION LIFTED ON U.S. CARRIER PAYMENTS TO THESE CARRIERS**

IB Docket No. 03-38

On March 10, 2003, the International Bureau (Bureau) of the FCC adopted and released an Order, DA 03-581, finding that six Philippine carriers have engaged in the anticompetitive “whipsawing” of U.S. carriers on the U.S. Philippines route, in violation of the Commission’s International Settlements Policy (ISP). The Bureau found that the Philippine carriers had disrupted the U.S.-Philippine networks of either AT&T Corp. (AT&T) or WorldCom, Inc. (WorldCom), or both, in retaliation for the refusal of AT&T and WorldCom to agree to the Philippine carriers’ demand for rate increases for termination services on their networks in the Philippines.

In light of this finding, the Bureau ordered U.S. carriers to suspend payments to the six Philippine carriers pending restoration of the U.S.-Philippine circuits of AT&T. As required by paragraph 31 of the Order, AT&T reported on March 25, 2003 that Bayan Telecommunications Company (Bayantel) and Digital Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (Digitel) have ceased blocking AT&T’s traffic into the Philippines. In addition, WorldCom reported on March 25, 2003 that its traffic to Digitel and Bayantel is completing and reported that Digitel and Bayantel have never blocked WorldCom’s circuits.

As a result of the full restoration of these AT&T circuits, by this Notice, we lift the suspension of payments required in the Order with respect to U.S. carrier payments to Digitel and Bayantel. Therefore, all U.S. carriers must now resume making payments for termination services to Digitel and Bayantel. U.S. carriers must comply with the other provisions of the Order with respect to Digitel and Bayantel, including negotiating arrangements with Digitel and Bayantel that comply with the Commission’s ISP retroactive to February 1, 2003.

Copies of this Notice, status reports, Order, and pleadings are available electronically on the Commission's web site at www.fcc.gov.

For additional information, please contact James Ball, Policy Division, International Bureau, (202) 418-1460.